

## SETTING A PRECEDENT



At the Annual General Meeting of the South African Association of Consulting Engineers, outgoing president, Craig Clarke, handed over the mantle of presidential responsibility to Althea Povey of Kwezi V3 Engineers, making her the first woman in SAACE's history to hold presidential office.

Althea takes over at a challenging time in the Association's history – a time of transition and change, characterised by the development of the Construction Charter process and continued efforts to transform the industry.

Althea was born in South Africa and matriculated in Cape Town in 1976. She completed a B. Sc degree at Stellenbosch University in 1979, obtained a H.D.E. the following year, then continued her studies at Stellenbosch and was awarded a B.Eng in 1984. She recently obtained an M.Phil from the University of Cape Town.

Her career in the construction industry spans 17 years during which time Althea has held positions as design engineer, project engineer, project manager and company director. Last year, Althea joined Kwezi V3 Engineers as the divisional director responsible for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Division and was recently elected to the Board of Kwezi V3 Engineers.

She is fortunate to have been involved in many and varied civil engineering projects ranging from freeway to township road design, bulk services to township services design, repair and maintenance projects, design of services for commercial and industrial developments, public transport interchange design and more recently design relating to water and waste water treatment.

Her career within the Association spans seven years and includes terms on the Western Cape Branch Committee, Branch Chairman of the Western Cape (2001-2002), Chairman of the Communication and Marketing, Finance and Staff, and Membership and Constitution committees, member of the Executive Committee of the SAACE national council, vice-chairman of the SAACE National Liaison committee, first and second vice-president of SAACE.

In addition, she is a fellow of the South African Institute of Civil Engineers (SAICE), an associate member of the Institute of Municipal Engineers of South Africa (IMESA) and a member of Soroptimist International, an international service organisation which is represented at the United Nations.

Althea is married to Shaun, ex Springbok and WP rugby player. They have two children, Ryan (21) and Tarryn (18). Althea enjoys listening to music, playing the piano, reading, travelling, gardening and sport, as a spectator. She is an active hiker having completed a number of South African mountain trails and most recently the Whale Trail.

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

### FORUM TAKES OFF

One of the most important initiatives embarked on by the Association in recent years, has been launched in South Africa.

The Young Professionals Forum (YPF) has been tasked with developing initiatives to encourage the youth in South Africa to follow a career in engineering, particularly consulting engineering, and also to provide input to SAACE on attracting and retaining quality consulting engineers.

The inauguration of the Forum took place at Vodaworld with a highly successful launch. Already branches are active in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal, with Western Cape and Free State set to follow.



At a national caucus were Sugen Naicker, Duane Booyse, Moloko Sebone, Mishya Govender, Naresh Pather (chairman), Beate Schaffeter, Adhil Ramsurup, Dominic Collett and Pankaj Bulla

## KZN — “SURFS UP”

Hot on the heels of the Gauteng launch was the KwaZulu Natal Branch which had its launch at the Oyster Box Hotel—a stone’s throw from the Umhlanga Rocks lighthouse - a fitting beacon for the 110 young professionals who came to celebrate.

Althea Povey challenged the young professionals to use their energy, creativity and passion to transform the industry and asked their employers to encourage them and welcome their innovative thinking. Clint Koopman gave his experiences of attending the Copenhagen 2004 FIDIC Conference. He stressed that South African engineers must be proud of being South African. Internationally we are held in high regard. Neil Macleod (Head Water and Sanitation: Ethekeweni Municipality), highlighted the role of the young engineer within the industry. His message to the YPF’s was to enhance the use of technology and communication skills and to learn from their older colleagues. Clive Swaisland (Chairman of SAACE KZN) invited the YPF to engage with SAACE at branch and national level.



Dominic Collett (Chairman YPF-KZN); Sanele Ndlovu (YPF Member); Althea Povey; Clint Koopman; Richard Dlamini (YPF Member & Master of Ceremonies)

“We would like to encourage all young people between 18 and 35 years of age working for a consulting engineer to join the YPF to assist them in their personal development, ” said Dominic Collett, Chairman of the Young Professionals Forum Kwazulu Natal.

## GAMA DEVELOPS BUSINESS IN AFRICA

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) represents consulting engineers worldwide, but the Group of Africa Member Associations (GAMA) represents the particular interests of Africa. At the recent AGM and convention in Kampala delegates came from Botswana, Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda.

The theme of “Developing the Business of Consulting Engineering in Africa” was particularly apt with the evolution of NEPAD as a unifying force. South Africa was well represented with 12 delegates. SAACE currently serves as secretariat to GAMA and the interaction has proved to be valuable in promoting an exchange of professional and business experiences. Graham Pirrie noted that the Engineering Registration Board of Tanzania has successfully implemented compulsory registration for all engineers as well as a system of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), making it to our knowledge, the first African country to implement this in the engineering sector.



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